

REMARKS

Claims 2-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-7, 18, 21, 24-25, 26-27 and 30 are amended. Claims 1 and 33-46 are canceled. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4-6, 20 and 30-32 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form to include all the features of claim 1, and all other claims that depended on claim 1 have been amended to depend on claim 4.

In view of the above amendments, both the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-3, 8-11 and 14-19 based on Yamashita, U.S. Patent 6,459,272 and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 7, 12-13 and 21-24, also over Yamashita, are now moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Because claims 25-29 were dependent on claim 1 and claim 1 has been incorporated into claim 4, rejoinder of claims 25-29 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lynn E. Schwenning
Registration No. 37,233

JAO:LES/ccs

Enclosure:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 23, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
